

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Drummond, U.S. Patent No. 6,691,156. Transmitted herewith is a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, by which inventor Bjorn Markus Jakobsson swears behind the Drummond patent. It is noted that Drummond was filed on March 10, 2000, while the inventors were in possession of the invention at least as early as April 2, 1999, as evidenced by Exhibits A and B which accompany the Declaration. In addition, as explained in detail in the Declaration, the inventors were diligent in reducing the invention to practice by filing the instant patent application. Accordingly, it is submitted that the inventors have satisfied the requirements of Rule 131, and established that they are entitled to swear behind the Drummond patent.

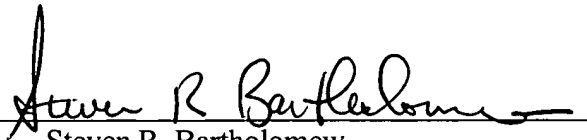
Once the Drummond patent is removed from consideration, the aforementioned rejection must be withdrawn, and the application allowed as filed. It is noted that applicants do not concede the validity of the Examiner's rejection. Moreover, applicants do not concede that Drummond teaches or suggests their invention as claimed, nor do applicants concede that Drummond provides a proper basis for rejection of the claims. It is simply noted that Drummond is barred as a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.131.

All grounds for rejection having been successfully addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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